DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 478 593 HE 036 015

TITLE	Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options, 2003.
INSTITUTION	Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, Olympia.
PUB DATE	2003-01-00
NOTE	13p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	College Students; Enrollment; *Higher Education; *Interstate Programs; *Tuition
IDENTIFIERS	*Reciprocity

ABSTRACT

Washington state law requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to prepare a report every 2 years on Washington reciprocity agreements with Idaho, Oregon, and the Canadian province of British Columbia. Reciprocity agreements allow some residents of Washington to attend college in another state or province at reduced tuition rates, with similar arrangements for students coming from those areas to Washington institutions. By statute, the HECB may negotiate yearly reciprocity agreements with other state-level higher education agencies in the two states and one province. Institutions administer the agreements and have discretion on whether to participate and in the number of out-of-state students who will participate. This report reviews the current status of reciprocity with British Columbia, Idaho, and Oregon. Over the last several years, the specificity of the reciprocity agreements has evolved toward less restrictive exchange arrangements between states. Idaho has continued to sign formal reciprocity agreements, but British Columbia and Oregon have discontinued formal reciprocity. However, other avenues exist for student exchanges between Oregon and Washington, as well as some other states. (SLD)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 478 593

2003 Reciprocity Agreements

and other Student Exchange Options

January 2003

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

M. Gaspard

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

WASHINGTON
HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

HE036015

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON
HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

January 2003

2003 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options

Executive Summary

State law requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to prepare a report every two years on Washington reciprocity agreements with Idaho, Oregon, and the province of British Columbia. Reciprocity agreements allow some residents of Washington to attend college in another state/province **at reduced tuition rates**, with similar arrangements for students coming to Washington institutions.

By statute, the HECB may negotiate yearly reciprocity agreements with other state-level higher education agencies in the three states/province. Institutions administer the agreements and have discretion on whether to participate, and in the number of out-of-state students who will participate.

This report reviews the current status of reciprocity with British Columbia, Idaho and Oregon.

State-Level Reciprocity Agreements

Washington/British Columbia

Beginning in the mid-1980s, British Columbia participated in reciprocity agreements involving several universities and community colleges on both sides of the border. These agreements waived out-of-state tuition for a specified number of students at higher education institutions on both sides of the border. In the mid-1990s, British Columbia requested that reciprocity be phased out; 1998-1999 was the final year of a written agreement. The highest participation occurred in the early 1990s, when approximately 80 Washington residents enrolled annually in British Columbia institutions.

Washington/Oregon

For two decades, reciprocity agreements between Washington and Oregon specified the number of students who would receive waivers and the amount of tuition that would be waived. In the early 1990s, about 800 students from each state participated in the program, with each state

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

granting more than $2 million in tuition waivers. The last reciprocity agreement covered the 2000-01 academic year; since then, Oregon has not participated in official reciprocity.

Washington/Idaho

Reciprocity agreements continue to be signed between Washington and Idaho. Under the current agreement with the Idaho State Board of Education, Washington and Idaho each waive a total of $850,000 in tuition annually. In addition, there is a separate agreement with a two-year college in Idaho, prescribing that each state waive an additional $80,000 per year. Overall, several hundred residents from each state get direct benefits from tuition reductions available through the agreements.

Additional Student Exchange Arrangements

In addition to state-level reciprocity, several other programs are available for Washington residents who wish to study out-of-state, or for out-of-state students wishing to study in Washington. These include, for example, an undergraduate exchange program among 15 Western states (including Washington, Oregon and Idaho) – a program coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

The Future of Reciprocity and Other Student Exchange Agreements

Over the past several years, reciprocity agreements have become less restrictive – that is, total dollars are specified, but decisions on numbers of students receiving waivers are at the discretion of the institutions. Reciprocity agreements with Idaho continue to be signed each year. However, with the decisions of Oregon and British Columbia to withdraw from reciprocity, the scope of formal reciprocity has been reduced. Nevertheless, other exchange options for selected nonresident students – both in Washington and in other states – continue to be available.

WASHINGTON
HIGHER
EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD

January 2003

2003 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options

Overview

Exchange agreements among states allow some students to attend college in another state at a reduced cost. Under exchange agreements, students are charged a lower tuition than the published nonresident rates, which are generally much higher than rates for residents of a state.

Both state governments and citizens benefit from exchange agreements. For a participating state, access to outside programs might eliminate the need to maintain separate and possibly costly programs in some fields. Out-of-state enrollments also may give colleges and universities the critical mass to ensure stability of certain programs and contribute to a wider range of cultural and ideological diversity at a state's higher education institutions.

For students, opportunities to study beyond a state's borders may provide access unavailable within the state, especially for those whose nearest college may be across a border in another state. For students with limited resources, out-of-state tuition may be too costly without an exchange program to reduce tuition or other fees.

This report will examine state-level reciprocity, and other student exchange arrangements negotiated by individual colleges and universities.

State-Level Reciprocity Agreements

Washington statutes authorize the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to enter into reciprocity agreements with Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia.* Beginning in the early 1980s, the HECB negotiated separate annual agreements with each of these entities, specifying the number of students and/or dollar amounts to be waived. Agreements were designed to provide tuition waivers for a limited number of Washington residents attending college in another state,

---

* Oregon reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.730 – 736
Idaho reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.750 – 754
British Columbia reciprocity: RCW 28B.15.756 – 758

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

with equal (or nearly equal) waivers for Oregon, Idaho or British Columbia residents enrolling in Washington institutions. In the early 1990s, more than 1,000 Washington residents attended college in a neighboring state/province, and about that many nonresidents attended college in Washington under reciprocity provisions.

Reciprocity Agreements No Longer in Effect

Significant changes have occurred in the recent past. The agreement between Washington and British Columbia, and the agreement between Oregon and Washington, have been discontinued. A **few** students who are finishing their courses of study continue to receive reciprocity waivers under these agreements.

- ***Washington/British Columbia***
  Beginning in the mid-1980s, British Columbia participated in reciprocity agreements involving several universities and community colleges on both sides of the border. These agreements waived out-of-state tuition for a specified number of students at higher education institutions on both sides of the border. In the mid-1990s, British Columbia requested that reciprocity be phased out; 1998-1999 was the final year of a written agreement. The highest participation occurred in the early 1990s, when approximately 80 Washington residents enrolled annually in British Columbia institutions.

- ***Washington/Oregon***
  For two decades, reciprocity agreements between Washington and Oregon specified the number of students who would receive waivers and the amount of tuition that would be waived. In the early 1990s, about 800 students from each state participated in the program, with more than $2 million in tuition waivers granted by each state. The last reciprocity agreement covered the 2000-01 academic year; since then, Oregon has chosen not to participate in official reciprocity.

  It is important to note that several tuition reduction options are still available to Washington residents studying in Oregon, and to Oregon residents studying in Washington. These options include the exchange programs available under the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and provisions related to the border county pilot project (both are discussed in the next section of this report). In addition, community colleges in Oregon charge in-state tuition to Washington residents; in Washington, most community colleges charge in-state tuition to residents of other states (based on provisions of the "non-specific" waiver statute discussed below).

Washington/Idaho Reciprocity Agreements: Current Status

Reciprocity with Idaho is ongoing and is facilitated through two agreements: one with the Idaho State Board of Education and another with North Idaho College (a two-year institution). In the past, both numbers of students and dollar amounts to be waived were specified. However, at the suggestion of the Idaho State Board of Education, the agreements now reflect the total value of tuition to be waived, but waiver amounts for individual students and numbers of students who

receive waivers are at the discretion of each institution. Participating institutions in each state waive all – or a significant part – of the difference between resident tuition and nonresident tuition for students from the other state.

For the current agreement with the **Idaho State Board of Education**, Washington and Idaho each agree to waive $850,000 for residents of the other state. This same total amount of waivers has been maintained for the past four years (and is higher than the amount waived by each state in the mid-1990s). Numbers of students receiving waivers, and amounts waived for individual students, vary, depending on institutional decisions.

For the current agreement with **North Idaho College**, each state agrees to waive a yearly amount of $80,000 for residents of the other state. This amount is somewhat lower than agreements in the late 1990s, which reached $125,000 for each state.

Specifics of the two Washington/Idaho agreements for 2001-02 and 2002-03, including dollar amounts to be waived by each participating institution, as well as estimated numbers of students expected to receive waivers in each state, are displayed in the following table. It should be noted that the Washington/Idaho agreements are balanced to reflect dollars waived. Although institutions try to reach the agreed-upon waiver amounts, in some instances this is not possible.

For an individual student enrolled full-time, the waived amount varies, depending on the existing tuition rates in each state, and the type of institution. The waived amount covers all, or a significant part, of the difference between resident and nonresident tuition rates. In the current academic year, an individual student enrolled full-time receives a reciprocity waiver of $1,500 to $4,800 per year at a community college. At four-year institutions, an individual student will receive a waiver between $4,000 and $6,800 per year.

In addition to Idaho residents receiving tuition reductions under reciprocity, other Idaho residents may also be eligible for tuition waivers. In particular, Idaho residents attending most community colleges in Washington receive waivers of all, or most, of the nonresident portion of their tuition (based on provisions of the "non-specific" waiver statute discussed in the next section).

Current Reciprocity Agreements: Washington/Idaho

Washington/Idaho State Board of Education – Reciprocity Waivers:

State of Idaho	2001-02	2002-03
Boise State University	$ 93,500	$ 93,500
Idaho State University	$ 93,500	$ 93,500
Lewis-Clark State College	$229,500	$229,500
University of Idaho	$433,500	$433,500
Total $ Waived (approximate)	**$850,000**	**$850,000**
# of Washington students **full & part-time** (estimate)	190	190

State of Washington		
Washington State University	$240,000	$240,000
Eastern Washington University	$310,000	$310,000
Walla Walla Community College	$300,000	$300,000
Total $ Waived (approximate)	**$850,000**	**$850,000**
# of Idaho students **full & part-time** (estimate)	190	190

Washington/North Idaho College – Reciprocity Waivers:

North Idaho College		
Total $ Waived (approximate)	**$ 80,000**	**$ 80,000**
# of Washington students **full & part-time** (estimate)	45	45

State of Washington		
Eastern Washington University	$ 48,000	$ 53.000
Community Colleges of Spokane	$ 32,000	$ 27,000
Total $ Waived (approximate)	**$ 80,000**	**$ 80,000**
# of Idaho students **full-time** only (estimate)	15	15

Additional Student Exchange / Tuition Reduction Programs For Nonresidents (not dependent on state-level agreements)

In addition to state-level reciprocity agreements negotiated by the HECB, institutions are also permitted to participate in other types of student exchange programs, or to reduce tuition for selected nonresidents. State statutes authorize various programs for institutions to grant waivers for all or a portion of nonresident tuition; these statutes do not require yearly state-level agreements. And, in most cases, waivers are granted at the discretion of the institution.

Below is a review of various student exchange/tuition reduction programs, which are not dependent on state-level agreements.

WICHE Student Exchange Programs: 15 Western states
A consortium of 15 states, including Washington, represented in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), facilitates three types of student exchange arrangements. WICHE coordinates undergraduate, graduate, and professional exchange programs.

The following is an overview of WICHE exchange programs. (Data are derived from: *"The Statistical Report, Student Exchange Programs, Academic Year 2001-2002,"* WICHE, December 2001.)

- **Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE):** This exchange program includes some institutions from nearly all WICHE states. Students pay 150 percent of a state's resident tuition, which is usually much lower than full nonresident tuition charges. Washington's participation began in 1998; therefore, exchanges facilitated through WUE are a recent addition to the available student exchange options.

  Statute authorizes three Washington institutions to participate – Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, and Washington State University. In addition, two other public four-year institutions have chosen to accept students under the WUE program. Among the other Western states, numbers of institutions participating and eligible programs at each institution vary.

  In 2001-02, Washington **received 650** students from the 15 WICHE states – including 90 from the state of Oregon. Washington **sent 1,400** students to other WICHE states – including 300 who studied in Oregon.

- **Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP):** Students pay resident tuition through this program. Two Washington institutions participate – Eastern Washington University and Washington State University, with a total of six graduate programs eligible for the WRGP.

  In 2001-02, Washington **received 63** students from other WICHE states and **sent 62** students to programs in other states.

- **Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP):** This exchange facilitates enrollment in out-of-state professional programs. In addition to a tuition reduction for the student, the sending state pays a support fee to the receiving school. Washington sends students to out-of-state WICHE programs to study in two fields –optometry and osteopathic medicine. Several institutions in Washington (both public and private) accept professional students and receive support from the sending state.

  In 2001-02, Washington **sent 13** students and **received 80** (70 at public institutions and 10 at private institutions in Washington).

Border County Pilot Project: Washington and Oregon

This pilot project affects Washington's public higher education institutions located along the southern border of Washington. The pilot project designates residents of Oregon's northern counties (i.e., counties adjacent to Washington's southern border) to be Washington residents for purposes of tuition, and are thus charged Washington resident tuition rates. This pilot project was instituted in response to policies in Oregon that provide reduced tuition to Washington residents. Specifically, Oregon community colleges charge in-state tuition to Washington residents, and Portland State University (along with several other four-year institutions) charges in-state tuition to Washington residents taking eight credits or less.

This pilot project was enacted by the 1999 Legislature, and reauthorized for an additional two years during the 2002 legislative session. The project (now codified as RCW 28B.80.805-807) is scheduled to expire June 30, 2004. Under provisions of this pilot, WSU/Vancouver and WSU/ Tri-Cities may charge in-state resident tuition to Oregon residents taking eight credits or less. Five community colleges – Lower Columbia, Grays Harbor, Clark, Columbia Basin, and Walla Walla – may charge in-state tuition to Oregon residents. To be eligible, Oregon residents must reside in one of 13 Oregon counties that are located on the border with Washington.

The HECB prepared a report in December 2001 on the border county pilot project. At that time, only three community colleges and one WSU branch campus (Vancouver) participated. Data from this report indicate that, in fall 2000, 240 Washington residents (enrolled for eight credits or less) paid in-state tuition rates at several four-year institutions in Oregon; and over 60 Oregon residents received similar benefits at WSU/Vancouver. Also in fall 2000, over 400 Oregon residents paid in-state rates at participating community colleges in Washington; and approximately 2,000 Washington residents paid in-state tuition at Oregon community colleges. (Source: *"Border County Pilot Project, Review and Recommendations,"* HECB, December 2001.)

The next border county report, due in December 2003, will include data for five community colleges and two WSU branch campuses. It is anticipated that participation levels in the border county project will show an increase.

The following delineates other tuition-reduction programs available to institutions. However, statistics on numbers of students receiving benefits under these waiver categories is not presented.

Non-Specific Tuition Waivers

Senate Bill 6010 passed by the Washington Legislature in 1999 allows institutions to "waive all or a portion of the operating fees [tuition] for any student" (this is now codified as RCW 28B.15.915). Although not limited to waivers of nonresident tuition, it can be used for this purpose.

Community colleges: Most of the community colleges in Washington have applied this "non-specific" waiver provision to the nonresident portion of tuition for residents of other states (though not for foreign students). In total, the "non-specific" waiver statute has allowed tuition reductions for hundreds of nonresident students. Although the formal reciprocity agreement with Idaho, and the border county pilot project with Oregon, involve a number of students from these states, many other residents of these two states also receive tuition waivers at Washington community colleges based on the "non-specific" waiver statute.

Four-year institutions: In addition to participation in Idaho reciprocity and other exchange programs, four-year institutions may use their "non-specific" waiver authority for additional nonresident tuition reductions. However, data are not available on the exact usage of this waiver for nonresidents at four-year institutions.

Students of Foreign Nations: Four-Year Institutions

State statute permits four-year institutions to waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for students of foreign nations. Waivers, to the extent possible, should "promote reciprocal placements and waivers in foreign nations for Washington residents," and priority is designated for exchanges sponsored by "recognized international education organizations."

Research institutions (University of Washington and Washington State University) may grant 100 waivers each year; other four-year institutions may grant 20 each year (RCW 28B.15.555-556).

Students of Foreign Nations: Community Colleges

State statute also permits community colleges to waive all or a portion of tuition and fees for students of foreign nations, with a limit of 100 foreign students each year. The waiver is designed to promote reciprocal placements of Washington residents in study programs abroad (RCW 28B.15.526-527).

Home Tuition Programs: Four-Year Institutions

Four-year institutions are permitted under state statute (RCW 28B.15.725) to negotiate agreements with out-of-state institutions (provided no loss of tuition and fee revenue is incurred). Participating students enroll in an out-of-state institution and pay the equivalent of regular resident tuition and fees in their home state. The total number of participants is not specified in statute. However, each individual student is limited to one academic year in the program.

School of Medicine and Dentistry
Both the University of Washington and Washington State University (to some extent) are permitted to exempt nonresident tuition for students from several Western states, under contracts with Alaska, Montana, Idaho or Wyoming (for medicine) and Utah and Idaho (for dentistry) to regionalize medical education.

Active Military Personnel and Families
Statutory provisions designate as residents, for tuition purposes, active military personnel who are residents in another state but stationed in Washington, and their spouses and dependents.

Students Holding Graduate Service Appointments
Nonresident graduate students holding graduate service appointments may be exempted from all or a portion of nonresident tuition and fees.

Other Exemptions
- Employees of higher education institutions who are not residents of Washington may be exempted from nonresident tuition and fees.
- Some classifications of refugees may be exempted from nonresident tuition.

Summary

State policy in Washington, and in other states, has provided several avenues for tuition reductions that facilitate exchanges of students across borders. The most formal of these have been the "reciprocity agreements" between Washington and Oregon, between Washington and Idaho, and between Washington and British Columbia. These agreements have provided a level of tuition waivers for neighboring states' residents studying in Washington, with similar waiver levels for Washington residents who cross the borders to attend colleges/universities.

Over the last several years, the specificity of the reciprocity agreements has evolved toward less restrictive exchange arrangements between states. Idaho has continued to sign formal reciprocity agreements, but British Columbia and Oregon have discontinued formal reciprocity. However, as noted in this report, other avenues exist for student exchanges between Oregon and Washington, as well as with other states.

Among the various exchange options, in addition to formal reciprocity, are the exchange programs sponsored by WICHE and the border county pilot project. Furthermore, the "non-specific" waiver has allowed institutions the flexibility to implement tuition reductions to foster the objectives and missions of each college or university.

Overall, the trend may be toward continued or even greater use of tuition waivers for selected nonresident students, both in Washington and in neighboring (and other) states. Though formal reciprocity agreements have diminished, other types of student exchange opportunities across states will likely continue.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-01

WHEREAS, The Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board is directed by statute to submit by January of odd-numbered years a report on reciprocity between Washington and Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, and Washington and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, The report outlines the history and current status of reciprocity agreements, including the status of the current reciprocity agreements with Idaho, and the decisions by British Columbia and Oregon to discontinue reciprocity; and

WHEREAS, The report reviews other student exchange opportunities, in addition to reciprocity available to Washington residents and residents of neighboring states;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the "2003 Report on Reciprocity Agreements and Other Student Exchange Options" and directs that the report be transmitted to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature.

Adopted:

January 29, 2003

Attest:

_____

Bob Craves, Chair

_____

Pat Stanford, Secretary

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

NOTICE

Reproduction Basis

[X] This document is covered by a signed "Reproduction Release (Blanket)" form (on file within the ERIC system), encompassing all or classes of documents from its source organization and, therefore, does not require a "Specific Document" Release form.

[ ] This document is Federally-funded, or carries its own permission to reproduce, or is otherwise in the public domain and, therefore, may be reproduced by ERIC without a signed Reproduction Release form (either "Specific Document" or "Blanket").